

**Lewis and Clark County Mental Health Local Advisory Council**  
**Intermountain Conference Room**  
**Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 11:30 a.m.**

**Mission Statement:** The purpose of the LAC is to assist in the improvement of Lewis and Clark County public mental health services and to review and make recommendations about Lewis and Clark County's public mental health services to the Lewis and Clark County Commissioners, as well as provide input and recommendations to the State of Montana's Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council (MHOAC) and the State of Montana's Service Area Authority (SAA) serving the community.

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order and Reading of the Mission Statement**

Matt Furlong called the meeting to order and Brian Coplin read the LAC mission.

Members in Attendance: Matt Furlong (Vice Chair), John Wilkinson (Past Chair), Drenda Niemann, Ray Roberts, Vee Yang, Brian Coplin, Cory Bailey, Andy Hunthausen, Katie Jerstad, Jess Hegstrom, Gary Mihelish, Kimberly Gardner, and Shane Gabriel.

Guests in Attendance: Amy Emmert, Brandy Vail, Berta Halverson, Jodi Marsh, and Sue Noem.

Staff in Attendance: Jocelyn Olsen.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes from May 7, 2019 were approved with one amendment. The amendment changed the spelling of "Inpath" to "EmPATH".

**3. Proposed Meeting Cancellations**

The Council held discussion on canceling July 2019 and August 2019 general LAC meetings. Members voiced that there are important events coming up in August and September such as the VA Resource Fair and Suicide Prevention Month. The Council agreed that work could move forward through the Workgroup meetings therefore the motion to cancel the July and August meetings was approved.

**4. Suicide Prevention Month**

Jess Hegstrom opened conversation regarding different events that could be held throughout Suicide Prevention Month, September. Primarily these events are focused on education and awareness. Events that are already scheduled for this time include the NAMI Walk on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, a NAMI guest lecturer, and a community BBQ at Our Place. The Council completed further brainstorming of events.

Amy Emmert also disclosed that St. Peters Health (SPH) is hoping to do a Suicide Prevention Week and agreed to join workgroup 2 on their efforts. SPH has also established the goal of training at least 25% of their staff in QPR.

**5. EmPATH Unit Presentation**

Amy Emmert started her presentation by explaining that SPH is dedicated to screening all individuals who go to a primary care appointment for depression and anxiety. Ms. Emmert explained that staff has been working hard to provide warm hand-offs to mental health professionals. SPH has integrated behavioral health specialists at both the Broadway and North clinics available to speak with patients once an issue has surfaced through the screening.

Ms. Emmert explained that this model was spearheaded in Billings and has been extremely helpful especially as we recognize that the Emergency Room is not the best place to treat patients struggling with mental health concerns. The EmPATH Unit is meant to fill in the holes and provide a more personable experience. Shane Gabriel added that patients entering the EmPATH Unit would need to be medically cleared prior then went on to explain hopes for the layout of the Unit and where it will be located. The Unit will include a side for both adults and adolescents each. A few major goals they are working toward are having a psychiatric nurse practitioner or psychiatrist available to complete psych-evaluations and a professional able to medically clear individuals in the unit as opposed to the ER.

A meeting will be held June 18<sup>th</sup> to determine where on the SPH campus the EmPATH Unit will be located. Collaboration with other mental health providers and input from the community is wanted and necessary in this process.

**6. May Mental Health Month Successes and Lessons Learned**

Lewis and Clark County benefitted greatly from the ASIST training with about 27 people total trained, 20 of which from LC County. Another helpful item was having the calendar of all events. Lessons to take forward included starting planning sooner and ensuring that multiple events are not scheduled on the same day.

**7. Workgroup Reports**

**a. One – Effectiveness, Accessibility, Quality of Services**

Workgroup One has completed a survey that they will send out today to Journey Home, Pretrial Services, and PureView for data collection starting Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. These surveys will gather information regarding individuals' access to services and social determinants of health. The Stepping Up Initiative was also mentioned.

**b. Two – Community Outreach**

Workgroup Two update was given in the previous item. The next meeting is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> at 11am.

**c. Three – Gaps in Services**

Workgroup Three encompasses the three Mayor's Challenge groups. The crisis-intercept mapping group is looking for a new leader, being run in the interim by Juliana Hollows. Their next meeting is June 20<sup>th</sup>. The 2-1-1 system is more updated than it has been and continues to add other resources such as community support groups. The peer-to-peer group helped table the mental health block party and will be involved in the events for September Suicide Month.

**8. Agency Updates and Public Comment**

Sue Noem shared the number of patients with psychiatric complaints that went to the ER in the month of May was 140. A further breakdown of where each patient went after the ER visit was provided. Kimberly Gardner shared that the Law Enforcement Mental Health Committee also discussed concerns with public perception about mental health response and encouraged all to share any complaints so as to work toward a resolution.

Jess Hegstrom reminded the Council of the military competency training and to note that agencies are challenging each other but self-nominations are encouraged as well.

**9. Next Meeting**

September 3, 2019

**10. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.